AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) A push-to-talk communications method for use with a push-to-talk communications device, said method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

receiving at a router server in a communications network an audio stream containing an utterance when a user presses a button on a user device and starts to talk;

buffering the received audio stream;

performing a speech recognition process on the received audio stream to recognise the utterance contained therein;

determining, if possible, an intended receiver of the audio stream in dependence on the recognised utterance; and

if an intended receiver was determined, transmitting said audio ~~the audio~~ stream to the determined intended receiver using a half-duplex communications service provided by a packet-switched network.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein when the determining step determines one or more possible intended receivers from the recognised utterance, the method further comprises the steps: indicating the one or

more possible intended receivers to a user; and receiving a selection signal from the user indicating the one or more determined possible intended receivers to which the message should be transmitted.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the indicating step further comprises generating an audio speech prompt corresponding to the one or more possible intended receivers; and outputting the generated audio speech prompt to the user.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, wherein when the determining step determines a plurality of intended receivers, the audio stream is transmitted to each of the determined receivers using a group call function of the half-duplex communications service.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19, wherein the speech recognition process is performed only on a portion of the received audio stream when ~~if it is likely that~~ the intended recipient is indicated at the beginning of the audio stream.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, and further comprising the steps of: receiving an indication of the identity of a user who generated the audio stream; and selecting a user-dependent speech grammar for use by the

speech recognition process in dependence on the identity of the user.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, and further comprising the steps of receiving a speech recognition activation signal from a user, wherein the speech recognition and determining steps are performed in dependence on the receipt of such a signal.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 19, and further comprising the steps of:

receiving audio streams transported by the half-duplex communications service;

performing a speech recognition process on the received audio streams to determine the respective utterances contained therein; and

if it is determined that a predetermined utterance is contained in any of the audio streams, signaling that the half-duplex communications service should cease transporting the audio stream.

27. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer medium containing a computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when run on a computer system all the steps of the method of claim 19 are performed.

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program or any one or more of a suite of computer programs which cause a

computer to perform the method of claim 19.

29. (Currently Amended) A push-to-talk communications system comprising:

a user device arranged in operation to both receive an audio stream containing an utterance and forward said audio stream to a router server of a communications network when a user presses a button on said user device and starts to talk;

storage means for buffering the received audio stream;

a speech recogniser arranged in use to recognise the utterance contained within the received audio stream;

receiver determination means arranged to determine, if possible, an intended receiver of the audio stream in dependence on the recognised utterance; and

means for transmitting said audio ~~the audio~~ stream to a determined intended receiver using a half-duplex communications service provided by a packet-switched network, if the intended receiver was determined.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, and further comprising: indicating means for indicating one or more possible determined intended receivers to a user; and means for receiving a selection signal from the user indicating one or more of the possible determined intended receivers to which the audio stream should be transmitted.

31. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 30, wherein the

indicating means further comprises audio prompt generating means for generating an audio speech prompt corresponding to the one or more of possible intended receivers; and an output for outputting the generated audio speech prompt to the user.

32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, wherein when the receiver determination means determines a plurality of intended receivers, the means for transmitting is further arranged to transmit the audio stream to each of the determined receivers using a group call function of the half-duplex communications service.

33. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 29, wherein the speech recogniser operates only on a portion of the received audio stream when ~~if it is likely that~~ the intended recipient is indicated at the beginning of the audio stream.

34. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, and further comprising: means for receiving an indication of the identity of a user who generated the audio stream; and grammar selection means for selecting a user-dependent speech grammar for use by the speech recognition process in dependence on the identity of the user.

35. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, and further comprising the steps of means for receiving a speech recognition activation signal from

a user, wherein the speech recogniser and receiver determination means are operable in dependence on the receipt of such a signal.

36. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 29, and further comprising:

means for receiving audio streams transported by the half-duplex communications service;

the speech recogniser being further arranged to perform a speech recognition process on the received audio streams to determine the respective utterances contained therein; and

the system further comprising signalling means for signalling that the half-duplex communications service should cease transporting audio streams, if it is determined that a predetermined utterance is contained in any of the audio streams.